



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

8 MARCH 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Contra Costa – Man Who Became Head of International Meth Ring Sentenced to 14-Years

(U) A Bay Area man who prosecutors say was responsible for the smuggling and distribution of hundreds-of-pounds of methamphetamine was sentenced to 14-years in federal prison. Sergio Vasquez-Gonzalez, 29, whom prosecutors say goes by the aliases Checo and Number One, was sentenced at a court hearing before a US District Judge. In court filings, prosecutors describe Vasquez-Gonzalez as the “CEO” of a massive drug ring that shipped meth and cocaine from Mexico into the Bay Area. Federal authorities started investigating the group in 2016, leading to numerous Bay Area residents being hit with federal drug trafficking charges.

SOURCE: 5 March 2021, [Mercury News](#)

(U) Humboldt County – Corrections Officer Suspected of Selling Meth and Opioids to Inmates

(U) Ricardo Tranquilino Aguirre, 27, was arrested on for smuggling drugs into the Humboldt County Correctional Facility. Aguirre was taken into custody inside the prison for being in possession of a controlled substance while armed, smuggling contraband into a jail, possession of a controlled substance for sales and transportation/sale of a controlled substance. Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsal said an investigation was launched into Aguirre after a witness provided the sheriff’s office with information regarding his activities. Since his arrest, the sheriff’s office has uncovered evidence suggesting Aguirre has been smuggling drugs into the facility for months.

SOURCE: 5 March 2021, [Mercury News](#)

(U) Huntington Beach – Appeals Court Rules that Four White Supremacists Can Face Charges

(U) A federal appeals court has found that four alleged members of a Southern California-based militant, white-supremacist group can face criminal charges for violent attacks at local political rallies. The ruling by a panel of 9th Circuit Court of Appeals judges revives the criminal cases against several alleged members of the “Rise Above Movement,” a group that prosecutors allege recruited and trained members to commit violence at political rallies.

SOURCE: 5 March 2021, [Mercury News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Experts Brace for More Impact as Microsoft E-mail Software Hack Spreads

(U) Washington – The hackers behind the powerful set of digital intrusion tools exposed by Microsoft Corp are breaking into organizations across the US and Europe. Experts say it is only a matter of time before the break-in tools are cloned by other spies or cybercriminals, with the potential to compound the problem for users of Microsoft’s widely used Exchange email and calendaring software. Microsoft has published patch fixes for the vulnerabilities.

SOURCE: 5 March 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Texas – FBI Arrests Man Involved in US Capitol Attack

(U) Houston – A Houston man is the fourth from that area to be arrested in the aftermath of the deadly US Capitol insurrection. Shane Leedon Jenkins was identified as a person who smashed a window with of

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crowbar in a widely circulated video. Federal court documents state Jenkins was identifiable by a red knit cap captured in a video clip taken during the insurrection. In addition, court filings state security cameras and body worn video could make out Jenkins in the knit cap throwing different objects at officers. Investigators further placed Jenkins in Washington DC on the day of the riot when he was spotted outside of a hotel in town confronting a DC Metro police officer trying to enforce curfew later that evening.

SOURCE: 5 March 2021, [ABC 13](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) France – Man Wielding Knife Arrested Outside Jewish School

(U) Marseille – Police detained a man last week who was wielding a knife outside a Jewish school and kosher market. Surveillance of Jewish sites in the city has been increased while they investigate his motives. School security guards noticed the man visibly brandishing a knife outside the school and then trying to enter a kosher market nearby, where they detained him. The children were briefly sequestered inside the school while police searched for any explosives or accomplices. No one was hurt in the incident and the man's motives remain.

SOURCE: 5 March 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Italy – Police Arrest Man Suspected of Helping Bataclan Attackers

(U) Rome – An Algerian man has been arrested on suspicion of belonging to the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) and helping the perpetrators of the 2015 coordinated attack that killed 130 people in Paris. A statement said that the man, 36, was believed to have provided counterfeit documents to the gunmen and bombers who attacked the Bataclan concert hall, restaurants, and the vicinity of the Stade de France sports stadium. The attack, in which hundreds more were wounded, was France's deadliest since World War Two.

SOURCE: 8 March 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Niger – Authorities Seize Seventeen-Tons of Cannabis Resin

(U) Niamey – Niger police have seized a record 17-tons of cannabis resin worth around \$37 million in a shipment originating in Lebanon and bound for Libya. The drugs had passed through the Togolese port of Lome before being transported by truck north to Niamey, more than 621 miles and two border crossings away. It is the largest cannabis seizure in Niger's history and the first shipment of drugs known to have come from Lebanon. Police have arrested 11 Nigeriens and two Algerians in Niamey and Agadez in connection with the case.

SOURCE: 5 March 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Somalia – Death Toll in Capital Bombing Rises to 20

(U) Mogadishu – The death toll has risen to at least 20 and 30 wounded after a vehicle packed with explosives rammed into a popular restaurant in Somalia's capital. A police spokesman blamed the attack on the local al-Shabab extremist group, which is linked to Al-Qa'ida and often targets Mogadishu with bombings. Some houses near the restaurant collapsed after the dinnertime blast, and police said that caused a number of deaths. Security had been especially heavy, with thousands of government forces deployed in anticipation of a planned demonstration by an alliance of opposition leaders over the country's delayed national election. The demonstration was later postponed.

SOURCE: 6 March 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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